

In the Claims:

Replace the original claims with the following amended claims:

1. (Currently amended) A multipurpose engineering construction machine of the loader/shovel type comprising a moving mobile chassis ~~in the central part of which there is mounted centrally mounting~~ a driving and control station, said chassis supporting, at ~~the~~ a front ~~of the chassis~~, a loader assembly and, at ~~the~~ a rear of the chassis, a shovel assembly or excavator, which assemblies can be controlled independently of one another via a hydraulic circuit selectively feeding a number of directional control valves that can be actuated by a manipulator and that control ~~the~~ and supply hydraulic fluid to hydraulic actuators operating ~~the~~ constituent elements of each ~~work-tool assembly~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ :

all the directional control valves supplying the ~~tool-control~~ actuators of the loader assembly and of the shovel assembly are grouped together in the form of a single module ~~(30)~~ mounted transversely on the chassis, ~~this being between the~~ a rear axle and ~~the~~ a frame supporting the shovel assembly;

~~the~~ supply of hydraulic fluid is via a variable-throughput pump ~~(36)~~ supplying a priority valve ~~(37)~~ of a steering on-the-direction function, associated with the module unit ~~(30) grouping the directional control valves together~~ ; and

the distribution of hydraulic fluid to each directional control valve is performed with a compensation balance allowing ~~the~~ fluid deliveries to be adjusted in stages.

2. (Currently amended) The engineering construction machine as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the directional control valves supplying the actuators ~~that~~ of the shovel assembly ~~(7) comprises~~ are manually or hydraulically controlled and the directional control valves ~~of~~ supplying the actuators of the loader assembly ~~(6)~~ are hydraulically controlled.

3. (Currently amended) The engineering construction machine as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 and 2, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein directional control valves ~~(32, 33, 34)~~ supplying actuators of the loader assembly are arranged laterally with respect to those directional control valves supplying actuators of the shovel assembly.